

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed September 24, 2007 has been received and carefully considered. The above amendments and following Remarks are submitted in response thereto.

Claims 1, 6, 8, 12 and 20 have been canceled. Claims 2-5, 7, 9-11, 12-19 have been amended and new independent claims 21 and 22 have been added.

Amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter, since they contain only limitations that were already disclosed by the original application.

Claim Rejection

Claims 1-5 and 20 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by KING (GB 2239832).

Claims 1-5, 8-11, 13-14, 18-19 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by BRAUN (U.S. 6,286,216).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Nevertheless, in order to expedite the grant procedure, the set of claims currently on file has been amended.

In particular, applicant agrees with the Official Action (point 4) that claims 6-7, 12, 15 and 17 are allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Therefore, new independent claim 21 based on original claims 1 and 6 and new independent claim 22 based on original claims 1, 8 and 12 have been added.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication of allowability and respectfully requests prompt allowance of the application as amended.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record but not applied by the Examiner has been carefully considered but is submitted to be less relevant than the references previously discussed.

All matters having been addressed above and in view of the pending claims and Remarks, applicant respectfully requests entry of this amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Applicant's counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert J. Patch', written over a horizontal line.

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